J

Valley Falls 7-mo-1-1848

GARRISON MSS.

My Dear friend —

ST I was very glad to receive thy letter a few days ago. I was not glad but very sorry that thou cannot visit us. Besides the lectures I did very much wish to talk over with thee many things. And now I want to ask thee to what-can be done to produce an Anti Slavery revival in Rhode-Island? there is not power enough in the State to do it; and yet as thou sayest it very much needs to be done. There has been no lecturer employed by the R. I. society for two or three years, and yet it seems to me that-there never was a time when the people were so ready to be converted as they are now. I know that is the case here. "The harvest truly is ripe, but the laborers are few." I see all around me, even in the low and vicious population of a factory village, signs of coming better times. For instance, we circulated here a few days ago, a petition for the life of a poor ignorant brother, who is under sentence of death in this State for murder, and the people readily signed it, almost to a man; and many of them, I have no doubt, would, a few years ago, have taken great pains to attend such an execution.

Now would it not be worth while for the American Society to employ a good lecturer for a time in this State? I have no doubt some money might be collected for his support, and perhaps enough, but of this I cannot say for certain. At any rate, there is one thing I very much wish; and that is, that some effective speaker should come here for one first-day immediately, as I have suggested. We have engaged the Hall for any day we wish within a few weeks, and somebody must come. We should be very glad to have Douglass and if he cannot come Wendell Phillips or some other one who gives "thoughts that breathe and words that burn." Will thou consider the matter of the A. Society's employing an Agent for a while in R. I.? I do not wish to trouble thee, but I do feel earnest in these matters.

With sentiments of the highest esteem and confidence I am sincerely thy friend

E. B. Chace.